



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE**  
**7401 Timberlake Road**  
**LYNCHBURG, VA 24502**  
**FEMA-1458-DR-VA**  
**Commonwealth Situation Report #9**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2003**

### **1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

12:00 AM *Wednesday, April 9, 2003*, through 12:00 AM, *Thursday, April 10, 2003*. (*New Information is in italics.*)

### **2. SITUATION:**

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures ,melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28<sup>th</sup> for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7:00am – 6:00pm, daily, and closed Sundays.. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544.

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb 15-Feb 18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City.

These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

### **3. WEATHER**

**Today. Flood watch through Thursday night. Rain tapering off to showers this afternoon. Cold with highs in the low 40s. Northeast winds around 15 mph. Tonight .A chance of showers early. Then rain after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. Northeast winds 10-to 15-mph. chance of precipitation 80 percent. Thursday. Rain. Heavy at times. Cold with highs in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 80 percent.**

### **4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Coordinate with FEMA for additional Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA).
- C. Coordinate with FEMA for DRC locations.
- D. Obtain signatures for the FEMA and Commonwealth Agreement.
- E. Conduct classes for selected DFO staff.
- F. Establish training component and identify Training Officer for DFO.
- G. Establish a drug and alcohol free environment.
- H. Implement Public assistance strategies.
- I. Establish the Task Force for DFO emergencies.
- J. Develop and implement DFO strategic plan.
- K. *Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.*

**5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:****A. Individual Assistance (IA):**Tele-registrations:

<b>Tele-Registrations</b>			
<b>Designated Jurisdictions</b>		<b>Undesignated Jurisdictions</b>	
Buchanan Co.	183	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	99	Arlington Co.	1
Montgomery Co.	27	Botetourt Co.	2
Russell Co.	10	Halifax Co.	1
Tazewell Co.	17	Henry Co.	1
Wise Co.	85	Lee Co.	1
Norton City	11	Prince William Co.	1
Roanoke City	67	Pulaski Co.	1
Salem City	80	Roanoke Co.	16
	579		25

Disaster Related Deaths Reported:

<b>Jurisdictions</b>		<b>Initial Reports</b>		<b>Validated Reports</b>	
		<b>No. Of Fatalities</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>No. of Fatalities</b>	<b>Source</b>
1	Augusta Co.	1	News	1	EM Coord
2	Fauquier Co.	1	EM Coordinator	Pending	
3	Frederick Co.	1	Times Dispatch	Pending	
4	Gloucester Co.	1	Daily Press	Pending	
5	Hanover Co.	1	VDEM PA	Pending	
6	Loudoun Co.	1	Times Dispatch	3	EM Coord
7	Montgomery Co.	1	Times Dispatch	Pending	
8	New Kent Co.	1	Times Dispatch	0	EM Coord
9	Pulaski Co.	1	VDEM PA	*1	EM Coord
10	Roanoke Co.	1	Local SitRep	Pending	
11	Shenandoah Co.	1	Washington Post	2	EM Coord
12	Spotsylvania Co.	1	EM Coord	Pending	
13	Warren Co.	2	EM Coord/News	Pending	

\*Non US Citizen/Non eligible

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC):**Reception Report**

<b>DRCs</b>	<b>Salem City</b>	<b>Buchanan Co</b>	<b>Wise Co</b>	<b>Dickenson</b>
Apr 5	4	Opening April 8th	Opens Apr 14 <sup>th</sup> -	-
Apr 6	9	-	-	-
Apr 7	14	-	-	-
Apr 8	13	17	-	-
Total	40	17	-	-

Reviewing applicant registration information in the declared jurisdictions in order to determine the need for fixed or mobile Disaster Recovery Centers to assist applicants with questions or registration issues.

DRC opened Apr 5<sup>th</sup> at the Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153(Phone: (540) 387-5461 Fax: (540) 387-5462. Service hours are 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.

DRC opened today, Apr 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Buchanan County Courthouse, Main Street, Grundy, Virginia 24614(Phone: (276) 935-6567. Service hours are 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Coordination is underway for the opening of a DRC in Wise County with local officials and FEMA/State staff. The DRC is scheduled to open on Monday, April 14, 2003, pending FEMA functional area inspections. Location is to be determined.

Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Validations:

On Wednesday, April 2, we contacted the Emergency Management Coordinators for non-designated jurisdictions. The new information warranted further contact with the following jurisdictions: the counties of Bland, Lee, Pittsylvania, Augusta, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Roanoke Co., Shenandoah, Warren, Madison, and the cities of Danville and Winchester.

As such, on Thursday, April 3, we contacted each jurisdiction to notify them of the Commonwealth's plans to verify their reported damages. Each EMC was provided a description of actions to take in preparation for a visit by a State Representative. All State Representatives have been contacted and are currently coordinating their site visits.

Commonwealth Representatives have submitted all requested IDA validation reports non-designated jurisdictions. These reports have been reviews and PDAs are being scheduled as appropriate.

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA):

The State Fire Marshall's Office has agreed to assist with the PDAs for Individual Assistance.

Localities, which as a result of the validated IDA have sufficient damages in Individual Assistance categories, will be scheduled for PDA's. Reported fatalities and any subsequent unmet needs are currently under investigation as well.

PDA teams are in the field now and we expect all PDA's to be completed by COB Friday, April 11, 2003.

Local Disaster Recovery Task Forces:

This week, the Coordinator of the State Disaster Recovery Task Force, Department of Housing and Community Development will be meeting with established LDRTFs within the declared areas as well as meeting with localities interested in establishing a LDRTF.

The LDRTF Coordinator spoke with Laura Lee of Congressman Boucher's staff regarding her question on the program.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Localities</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Result</b>
Monday, 4/7	Roanoke City, Roanoke Co., Salem City and Town of Vinton	Visit with existing Local & Regional DRTFs	<i>Productive meeting with Asst to the City Manager of Roanoke City, who will serve as chairperson of the Regional DRTF</i>
Tuesday, 4/8	Russell Co.	Visit with existing LDRTF	<i>Met with the chairperson of the LDRTF and participated in a conf. call with the VaVOAD.</i>
Wednesday, 4/9	Washington Co.	Kick off meeting to establish new LDRTF	
Thursday, 4/10	Wise Co.	Visit to begin establishment of new LDRTF	
Friday, 4/11	Buchanan Co. and Tazewell Co.	Visit with existing LDRTFs	

**B. Public Assistance (PA):**

- Requesting declaration add-on for snow emergency work only the following jurisdictions  
Prince William County  
Shenandoah County  
Warren County  
City of Manassas  
City of Manassas Park
- *Received one request for assistance from Fairfax Public Schools.*

- Joint FEMA/Commonwealth kick-off meetings on April 7, 2003 for Fauquier County, City of Winchester, Winchester Regional Airport Authority, Town of Warrenton, Town of Orange, and Town of Gordonsville *were successful and the locals are completing required data collection information for processing of project worksheets.*
- *PDA's are scheduled for flooded areas – April 9-11. Three reservists to assist the Commonwealth with four FEMA/Commonwealth teams.*
- *Received one Request for Public Assistance from a potential applicant, Marymount College of Virginia – PNP – reviewing their eligibility.*

*Two project worksheets completed and forwarded to Hyattsville, MD for processing.*

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- FEMA / State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activity for the field.
- Field Officers are contacting the Local Emergency Manager in the declared jurisdictions.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA telephone registration 1-800-621-FEMA.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA DRC location flyer in the Roanoke Valley and the Buchanan County/Grundy area.
- Field Officers are continuing to assess the unmet needs/ special needs in their assigned jurisdictions.
- Field officers will assist in validating reported damages in effected , non-declared jurisdictions
- Community relations will validate reported fatalities during the declared disaster event.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- Staffing finalized for Hazard Mitigation Section.
- Mitigation strategy formatted to Action Plan and calendar.
- Finalized the strategy based on the April 17 “success stories” meeting with local governments.
- Agenda for April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, and Cities of Salem and Vinton is completed.
- Finalized the Action Plan and transfer plan elements to the April/May strategic calendar.
- Finalized briefing points for the April 7, 2003 meeting with Congressman Boucher’s staff regarding the Hurley HMGP Project.
- Editing the Public Assistance Environmental Consideration Document for DR 1458VA
- Will develop an outline for environmental/historic resources coordinating agency scoping meeting.
- Will hold a floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others on May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The Central Shenandoah Project Impact, the VA Association of Floodplain Managers, and the Department of Conservation & Recreation will sponsor the workshop. The point of contact for registration information is Jackie Miller at 804-786-0237.
- *As part of their Emergency Watershed Program, NCRS is conducting DSR's visits in Wise, Russell, and Buchanan Counties. Mitigation has requested to be updated on the number of counties, the number of sites and estimated costs of the EWP work.*

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- *Worked with Community Relations to distribute Recovery Times.*
- *Issued news releases on disaster assistance (“Frequently Asked Questions”), and assistance dollars (IHP and SBA) out.*
- *Coordinated FEMA radio interview with SCO, Michael Cline.*
- *Drafted news releases in preparation for potential add-on localities and additional Disaster Recovery Center.*
- Field PIOs continued to contact news media in the declared area; distributed news releases and provided information on the recovery effort, emphasizing the amount of housing assistance provided to date and the Disaster Recovery Centers in Salem and Grundy.
- The key messages are: Call to register for assistance — don’t determine your own eligibility; Visit the Disaster Recovery Center; and Disaster assistance will not affect other government programs.

**F. Legislative Liaison:**Significant Activities:

- Responded to request for information from Delegate Lingamfelter (Northern Virginia ) on declared and pending jurisdictions.
- Coordinated response with appropriate state staff officers to state/local questions/concerns expressed in FCO meeting with Senator Boucher’s Deputy District Administrator in Abingdon.
- Following discussion with the SCO, requested FEMA Congressional to contact Congressmen Goode and Wolfe’s district offices to answer their questions and provide information.

Anticipated Activities in the next 24 hours:

Provide state senators and delegates with press releases and updated status reports. Organize group e-mails of state senators and delegates.

**G. Information and Planning:**

- Updating strategic priorities.

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**Michael M. Cline, SCO**